

REMARKS

Prior to examination on the merits, applicant requests entry of this Preliminary Amendment. Claims 1-16 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, and 10-16 have been amended and no claims have been canceled or newly added. Therefore, claims 1-16 are pending in the application and submitted for consideration by the examiner.

A substitute abstract is being submitted on a separate page at the end of this Amendment. The specification has been amended to correct minor informalities. No new matter has been added.

If there are any questions regarding the application or if an examiner's amendment or an interview would facilitate the allowance of one or more of the claims, the examiner is courteously invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the local number below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date October 16, 2003

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Attached: substitute abstract

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicant hereby petitions for any needed extension of time.